

## Mint of the United States at Philadelphia,

MELTING AND REFINING DEPARTMENT,

Philadelphia, 24<sup>th</sup> May, 1880

Sir,

When the first instalments of Anthracite were received from Patrick and Lipssett, I said nothing about it to the men, wishing them to estimate its value without prejudice. It was excellent Council Ridge Coal, and faultless in use. A short time afterwards they began to complain that "it was not all alike," and since then it has been growing worse. Ten days ago, when I picked out the nearest 60 pieces to me in the cellar and sorted them into three qualities, one-third was the best Council Ridge, one-third was barely tolerable coal, and one-third was a soft coal, not at all adapted to our melting furnaces. I have observed the same proportion of qualities since, the inferior rather increasing, and it



is now the daily cry of the melters that they cannot get the heat out of it. The general quality of the soft coal is such that we cannot obtain sufficient heat to insure thorough mixing of the gold alloy, because the coal hangs in the fire, bridging and leaving cooler empty spaces below the bridge. The coal is so inferior, that the men are detained for an hour and more over the time in which they could melt with good coal, and that too in spite of their punching the fire nearly all the time.

I think it would be safe to conclude that in the use of such coal we lose  $\frac{1}{5}$  or  $\frac{1}{6}$  of its value by using more coal to effect the same object.

Very respectfully yours  
J. H. Booth

Gen A. Loudon Snowden,  
Superintendent,

M. & R.



487 1/2

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U. S. Mint, Melter and Refiner's Department,  
PHILADELPHIA, PENN.,

May 24, 1880

Jas. L. Booth  
Melter and Refiner.

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Coal furnished  
by Patrick & Lipsitt  
2/3<sup>rd</sup> inferior qual-  
ity.

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No. of Enclosures,

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Rec May 24<sup>th</sup> 1880

[Abstract:] Coal furnished by Patrick and Lipsett 2/3 rds inferior quality. 487 ½

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Melting and Refining Department,  
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Very respectfully yours,  
Jas. C. Booth  
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Hon. A. Loudon Snowden,  
Superintendent.